

## January 2014 Webcast for District Education

Below is a written summary and digital copy (both audio and video) of the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, webcast for District CIOs and Education Technology Leaders. This is designed to provide a brief overview of the content of today's webcast and to serve as a communication tool. This month's webcast was held in Nelson County from Thomas Nelson High School.

You can access the digital copy for this webcast through our webpage at:

[http://media.education.ky.gov/video1/On-Demand2014/DTL\\_1-21-2014.mp4](http://media.education.ky.gov/video1/On-Demand2014/DTL_1-21-2014.mp4)

Public viewing is also available on the KDE Media Portal at

<http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/district-technology-leadership-webcast/>

The webcast is approximately 1:21 minutes in length. Numbers in **RED** indicate the timestamp for that portion of the discussion so you can easily locate it on the full digital recording.

In attendance from KDE were David Couch, Mike Leadingham, Dede Conner, and Phil Coleman. Damon Jackey was present as the KETS Engineer serving Nelson County Schools and he is also a local school board member for the Nelson County Schools. Anthony Orr (Superintendent), CIO David Coffing, DTC Jessie Morgan, Joseph Cecil and Sarah Rogers were there representing Nelson County. We were also lucky to have Senator Jimmy Higdon, Representative David Floyd and KBE Chairman Roger Marcum in attendance for today's webcast discussions and presentations.

Bardstown and Nelson County has about 43,000 residents. There are approximately 4700 students in the county schools, 2500 students in the independent schools and there is also a strong parochial school presence. Bardstown was voted the most beautiful small town in America in 2013, is world famous for its bourbon, and is home to My Old Kentucky Home. For more information about this beautiful area of the Commonwealth, visit their official web site at <http://www.visitbardstown.com/>.

Comments from Distinguished Visitors:

**KBE Chairman Roger Marcum** – Technology is a way of life now in the school system, both for instructional and assessment purposes. Older generations are not technology natives, but the younger generations are very technology savvy. We need the funding to continue and maintain the technology components and infrastructure.

**Senator Jimmy Higdon** <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislator/S014.htm> – Senator Higdon is a member of the Senate Education Committee and primarily a merchant rather than an educator. His work in the Senate has been a very interesting venture since he has a merchant background and is not an educator. It will be an interesting budget during this session. He is committed to make the education of our youth a very high priority.

**Representative David Floyd** <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislator/H050.htm> – Has many ties to education over the years. Glad to be in one of the most advanced schools in the state for technology deployed in the classroom and for energy efficiency.

**(11:15)** In every webcast we try to highlight some items specific and unique to the district. In Nelson County, there is a large deployment of end computing devices and Chromebooks. David Coffing spoke about these items. Many instructional devices needed refreshing as well as the labs. The district purchased 750 end computing devices (L300 models) and purchased desktop computers for the teachers. David highlighted how they manage the labs and hosting solutions. The end computing devices are inexpensive, they run very fast, and software deployment is simplified. Students use Windows 7, but the host server actually runs Windows Server 2008. There is currently no experience yet with end of year online testing. The Chromebooks are quick, relatively inexpensive, and easy to maintain. They are used extensively at the high school due to their portability and the Google educational applications. Over 5500 documents and over 8000 presentations have been generated over the past year. NCHS owns 486 and 400+ are used daily at the school. The collaboration tools are being used extensively and not having the printing capability is not an issue. The Chromebooks do not leave the building. A very reliable wireless infrastructure is essential to success with Chromebooks. Superintendent Anthony Orr ended this segment by reiterating that you do need to find the best solution to meet your needs. Principal Wes Bradley spent a lot of time researching the school's needs; his leadership and support helped integrate their current, successful solution. For a more detailed account of the district's technology, please read the article on Nelson County's website at <http://nelson.kyschools.us/webcast-highlights-technology/>.

**SoapBox Question #1: Has anyone looked into enabling our AD to sync to Google Apps in a manner similar to how it does for Office 365?** Chuck Austin responded that this can definitely be reviewed and evaluated. It is important to have options and to find the best fit for your needs.

**(22:30)** Three vendor partners joined the webcast today. Each has completed some pretty major accomplishments this past year and acted in a vendor partner capacity since the early days of KETS. We heard some major points from each of the three as listed below.

**(24:45) Tyler Industries** –John Marr attempted to join remotely, but the audio was not functional. Brian Pelletier of Tyler Industries was also present and completed this portion of the broadcast. Since February 2013, Kentucky has the largest cloud-based financial system implementation in the world. Tyler Industries secured the initial contract in 1994 and had 6 positions. Brian came from Maine and has been here 20 years as of this summer. The state level and the school districts have been great partners. The financial system worked well for many years and this past year the migration to the cloud was extremely successful. There is now connectivity to Maine and a redundant connection point in Texas. In this coming year, we want to connect the MUNIS financial system to the Infinite Campus (IC) system and complete testing to our backup site.

**(31:00) Microsoft** – Roger Archbold, Jeff Olander, and Tim Cornett were present. We have a relationship that goes back to the beginning of the KETS program and the DAS (District Administrative System). In many ways, our implementation is the largest K-12 communication deployment in the nation and the world. Content Security is a big issue with SB230 and we have used Microsoft's Proxy. Live@edu was completed a few years ago and now we use Office 365. Roger stated that working with Kentucky has been a fantastic experience and the scale of what we do as shared and managed services is so unique. Tim is a KIDS alumni and has been with Kentucky in several capacities since 1990; he is impressed with the growth he has seen in the effective use of the technologies. Jeff is the newest of the group and is excited about supporting and meeting the needs of the Commonwealth moving forward. In 2014, we will continue with Office 365 – Exchange, Sharepoint, and Lync with the focus being on using all 3 together to provide the best collaborative experience. Office will be available soon to eligible students

to load on up to 5 devices through the Microsoft Student Advantage program. David took a moment to outline the savings we experience with Microsoft on pricing now and in the past years. Several new devices are being deployed and the Shape the Future program is being put in place to offer some additional discounts. There are several enhancements coming this year with Active directory's identity management solution, Lync, Azure, and the TEALS program.

**(41:15) Apple** – Jenna Collins. Jenna is also a KIDS alumni and joined us through Lync from Cupertino, California. Apple has been with us from the very beginning of the KETS Program and has always been a multi-platform environment. Sean Lloyd is a new account executive and Todd Wellman is also continuing to support Apple in Kentucky. Apple continues to push the market with the IPAD type devices and one to one implementation. There are some exciting free resources – Learning in Action (on demand webinars) for one to one implementation at <http://learninginaction.apple.com/>. With iTunes U and digital content, Apple has the largest repository of free digital content in the world and is available in over 50 countries. There is now a full core content curriculum for high school and some new collections. Mac and IPAD running IOS 7 is now free from the App Store with new purchases.

**(45:55)** David discussed the significant price discounts and tremendous savings over time from our vendors that work with us in a true partnership capacity. They try to understand how their solution does/does not satisfy the need. These three have gone above and beyond the call of duty. In 2008, Bill became the initial recipient of the **Bill Stilwell Award**. This award is given to someone who works diligently without seeking recognition. In 2013, we are recognizing these three vendors with the annual Bill Stilwell award. Phil also commented that in addition to standing the test of time, they have challenged us in providing a better experience for our students and teachers. For the full story of the award and all previous award winners, please visit <http://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/Pages/The-Stillwell-Award.aspx>.

**(49:15)** Bill introduced Bill Stilwell 5<sup>th</sup>, his wife Doris, and son. He recounted how he came to know and work alongside David Couch. There was a short award ceremony and David presented the award and the red suspenders!

**(54:15)** 2013 Accomplishments – This summary holds a very abbreviated listing; please listen to the audio for the full detail of these items.

- ETranscripts – Kentucky is the only state that has a common transcript and provider. There is no longer a wait and it is automated. Will have this to all schools by the end of March.
- Infinite Campus improvements
- Office 365 Transition
- New KDE website Search Engine
- KDE News App – Media Portal for KDE's digital communications
- Electronic School Report Card Transition
- ATC Transition began
- Monticello/Wayne County consolidation
- Wireless Bus Capability
- KIH-3 and Voice/Networking Contracts were completed
- Top Ten State in Quality of Education
- Top Ten State in Quality of Data
- Cyber Attacks/Counter Attacks
- CIITS System – 5 Million Logins!

- No Major Deficiencies in Technology Audit
- STLP Program and State Leadership Transition

**(1:04:42)** 2014 Radar Screen - This summary holds a very abbreviated listing; please listen to the audio for the full detail of these items that will be major areas of focus in 2014.

- Dark Fiber Project
- KIH-3 Implementation
- E-rate Program Revamping
- Funding for KETS, KEN & IDU Programs
- Data Stewardship and Data Quality
- Data Reporting Platform – for internal/external researchers (Business Objects)
- Cooperatives – Providing increased functionality (Office 365, Global Address List, CIITS Use, etc.)
- Next Generation of Content Management
- Technology Readiness Survey – Integrating with School Report Card

**(1:11:45)** Thoughts and Comments – KBE Chairman Roger Marcum commented that former Commissioner Tom Boysen made a great choice in bringing David Couch back home and we have benefited greatly from his leadership. As Chairman of the KBE, he knows that the Senator and Representative will do all that they can to ensure the education funding. Rep. Floyd was very excited to hear about the vendor partnerships and the impact and contributions they have made. Senator Higdon commented that he has learned much by being with us today and appreciated the invitation.

**SoapBox Questions #2:** As all of us look into deploying solutions to provide students increased access to technology, the elephant in the room, so to speak, is state online testing. Who can give us answers on the recommended requirements? Chuck Austin responded that seamlessness and efficiency is a challenge. Make sure that technologies you are deploying, that are testing specific, work before you purchase in large quantities and have sufficient support. Testing vendors are being pushed by new technologies and will have to move quickly. We will also take this into consideration with the IDU program.

**SoapBox Question #3:** Will the Student Voice Survey appear in the IC Student Portal Inbox similar to district created surveys? Dede Conner responded that yes it will! It is a pilot this year and will go statewide next year. The Student Voice webpage is active and students should test their portal accounts for Student Voice in preparation.

**(1:18:25)** Ending Comments and Reminders:

Marty Park Reminder – Digital Learning Day is February 5<sup>th</sup>

Education Weeks' Technology Counts Article – This has been released and discussed the top 3 drivers of change. They are the economic and physical aspect, the accountability factor, and technology. Another big piece of this was the inclusion of Online Learning and making sure this is a K-12 Option

Today is Superintendent Orr's b-day!